

Tuesday, January 30, 2014

For immediate release

For more information:

Alan Berks. 612.787.3622

berksa@pillsburyhousetheatre.org

www.pillsburyhousetheatre.org



Hi-resolution photos are available on request.

Box Office: 612.825.0459

Pillsbury House Theatre opens their 24th season with a thrilling new work about the a teacher, a parent, and the student between them.

Starring Aditi Kapil (*City Pages Artist of the Year 2013*) and Laura Esping (*Jesus Hopped the A Train, Far Away*) and directed by co-Artistic Director Noel Raymond (*The Pride, No Child. .*), **GIDION'S KNOT** is a new drama by up-and-coming playwright Johnna Adams that addresses important issues in the undercurrent of education today. The script was a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize as well as the 2013 Steinberg New Play Award and independent productions are happening in Chicago, Berkeley, Philadelphia and Dallas in 2014. Pillsbury House Theatre presents the regional premiere.

About the Play

Over the course of a 90 minute parent/teacher conference, a grieving mother and an emotionally overwhelmed fifth grade teacher have a fraught conversation about the mother's son, the teacher's student, Gidion. As his tragic story is slowly uncovered, the woman wrestle with issues in the undercurrent of education today—Is the system supporting our youth or forcing them to conform? Who is responsible when things go wrong?

Ticket Information

February 21-March 23

Previews: February 20

Wednesday thru Saturday performances at 7:30 pm

Sunday performances at 3 pm

All tickets are Pay-What-You-Can. Pick your own price for every performance, every night.

Free child care in our licensed child care center is available on March 5 and March 16. **Audio-described performances** by Rick Jacobson for people with low vision are available on March 15. **American Sign Language interpreted performances** by Jonella Titus and Breanna Murray are March 16. **Post-show discussions** with our community partner the Minnesota Parent-Teacher Association, the artists, and other special guests will be on March 2, 6, 12, and 21st.

For more information and tickets call 825-0459 or visit pillsburyhousetheatre.org

WARNING: GIDION'S KNOT contains moments of graphic language unsuitable to children under 15 years old.

About the Actors

Aditi Brennan Kapil is a playwright, actress, and director, whose work is produced around the country. Most recently, her *Displaced Hindu Gods Trilogy* consisting of the plays *Brahman/i*, a one-hijra stand-up comedy show, *The Chronicles of Kalki*, and *Shiv*, premiered in repertory at Mixed Blood Theatre in Fall 2013. She is currently working on play commissions with Yale Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, and South Coast Repertory Theatre, and is a Core Writer at the Playwrights Center, the Playwright-in-Residence at Mixed Blood Theatre, and an Artistic Associate at Park Square Theatre. As an actor, she was most recently seen on stage in *Brahman/i...* and *Next to Normal* at Mixed Blood Theatre.

Laura Esping is a Twin Cities actor and educator most recently performing and teaching at the Guthrie. She is thrilled to be returning to Pillsbury House where she was last seen in *Jesus Hopped the A Train* and *Far Away*. She has had the honor and pleasure to perform with many other local companies including At the Foot of the Mountain, In the Heart of the Beast, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, The Jungle Theatre, Illusion Theatre, History Theatre, Old Log, and Penumbra Theatre. Laura holds a BA from the University of Iowa and an MFA from the University of MN.

About the Playwright

Johnna Adam's plays are an eclectic menagerie containing meditations on grief, wild farcical verse plays, southern gothic supernatural plays and hard to explain, in-your-face tragicoms. She is the 2011 recipient of the Princess Grace Award and a 2012 Finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Award and the 2013 Steinberg New Play Award.

As a playwright so far, she has mingled with an all-inmate cast at the Mitchellville Theatre Project at the Iowa Women's Correctional Institution (*In the Absence of Angels*, 2006) and participated in a fully nude talkback in front of a nude audience at the Naturist Society's Western Naturist Gathering at the Lupin Naturist Club (*Nude on the Beach*, 2002). Other plays include *Gidion's Knot*; *The Anguisher*; *Hripsime*; *Hued Moll*; *Lickspittles*, *Buttonholers and Damned Pernicious Go-Betweens*; *The Angel Eaters Trilogy* (*Angel Eaters*, *Rattlers*, and *8 Little Antichrists*); *Sans Merci*, *Cockfighters* and *The Sacred Geometry of S&M Porn*. She is a past Reva Shiner Award winner, winner of the OC Weekly's Best Original Play award (twice), finalist for the Princess Grace Award, finalist for the Christopher Brian Wolk Award, finalist for the National Art's Club's Playwrights First Prize; finalist for the William Saroyan Prize and New York Innovative Theatre Award nominee.

About Pillsbury House Theatre

From the Mainstage series to Chicago Avenue Project to Naked Stages to the Hennepin County Home School Project, Pillsbury House Theatre brings audiences closer—to the edge, to the actors, to affordable, adventurous theatre, to fellow audience members, and to

a strong community. Now entering its 24th year, the theatre continues to inspire choice, change, and connection through raw, intimate drama.

Pillsbury House Theatre is proud to be a professional theatre unlike any other. An integral part of Pillsbury United Communities, one of the largest human services organizations in the state, Pillsbury House Theatre demonstrates that the highest quality art is an integral part of all healthy communities, winning awards for theatre across the metro while also inspiring choice, change, and connection as part of our social service mission in South Minneapolis.

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